axillaries white, with grey shaft-streaks: "iris brown; beak yellow, upper mandible from base of culmen towards tip light brown; feet yellow, membrane (in female) brown." Length 470 mm., wing 190, tail 130, culmen 35, tarsus 32.

Female like the male, but smaller (length 440 mm.), duller in colouring, with narrower speculum; rectrices narrowly barred with white and with broader edges, and the bars of the lower back and rump undulated.

"Male and female: Mt. Scratchley at 12,200 feet, Sept. 24th, 1896; contents of stomach, stones and dirt."

The egg is of a uniform creamy grey, $55{\cdot}5 \times 42$ mm.

The duckling, as shown by a specimen in spirit, is above brown, wing and rump posteriorly edged with white, tips of tail brownish grey; a broad superciliary band, encroaching in front on the forehead, and sides of head and neck white; a black stripe from the hinder canthus of eye to occiput: bill, legs, and feet blue, nail of bill and nasal region horn-yellow.

[Mr. De Vis had given a new name to this Duck, but it is certainly the same as the curious form of Waigiou lately described and figured in Nov. Zool. (i. p. 683, and ii. p. 22, pl. iii.) as *Salvadorina waigiuensis*. We therefore omit Mr. De Vis's name, having received full authority to amend his MS.—Edd.]

XXX.—*Descriptions of some new or little-known Bird's-eggs from Queensland.* By D. Le Souëf (of Melbourne).

The following notes relate to the nesting and eggs of various birds which I have either collected myself or of which I have recently received specimens with remarks from my correspondents in Queensland.

1. Dacelo cervina (Gould). Fawn-breasted Kingfisher.

I noticed this bird on two or three occasions in the open forest country near Cooktown and found two of their nests, each of which contained three eggs; both nests were hollows scooped out in termites' nests in eucalyptus trees, one about thirty feet from the ground and the other fifty. The birds

themselves were shy, and it is astonishing how quickly they hear anyone approaching the tree where they are sitting on their nest, and they frequently fly off before being seen. There is no lining to the nest any more than the dust of the termites' mounds, and the mound is sometimes so small that it seems impossible that the bird could find room to make its nest in it. The following are the measurements of one clutch: A, 1·51 × 1·28 inch; B, 1·60 × 1·38 inch; C, 1·50 × 1·36 inch. The eggs are pure white and slightly lustrous; they were taken on November 18th, 1896.

2. Podargus phalænoides, Gould. Moth-plumaged Podargus.

The nest of this bird was found on November 25th, 1896, and contained two eggs much incubated; on the same day another nest was discovered which contained two young ones covered with white down and about a week old. In both instances the male bird was sitting on the nest, the female being in a neighbouring tree; and in the various nests of this bird that I have found, in every instance so far, when I have secured the sitting bird either on eggs or young, it has on dissection proved to be the male.

They are sleepy-looking birds and do not as a rule leave the nest until almost within one's reach, and then only to fly leisurely to another tree not far off, where they can be easily secured. Occasionally I have noticed the female resting close to the male as he sits on the nest, but as a rule they are on a neighbouring tree and the report of a gun close by does not seem to disturb them much. The present nest was built on the horizontal branch of a eucalyptus about fifteen feet from the ground, being almost flat and composed of twigs without any lining. It was 6 inches in diameter and 2 inches in depth. The eggs are pure white, oval in form, and measure: A, 1·62 × 1·05 inch; B, 1·63 × 1·07 inch.

3. Ptilinopus magnificus (Temminck). Magnificent Fruit-Pigeon.

The egg of this beautiful Pigeon was found in November at Cairns by Mr. K. Broadbent, of Brisbane, when he was on

a collecting tour in that district. He informs me that one egg is the usual number laid, which agrees with the practice of the allied Fruit-Pigeons. The nest was the usual light, shallow structure, composed of a few twigs loosely laid together and measuring six inches in diameter. It seems a wonder the birds do not lose their eggs when flying off and on such a flimsy structure. The egg is pure white, slightly glossy, and nearly oval in form, though rather pointed at the thinner end; it measures 1·65 × 1·19 inch.

4. Ptilinopus ewingi, Gould. Ewing's Fruit-Pigeon.

I described the nest and eggs of this beautiful little Pigeon about two years ago, but then had only a single egg. Having now received several from Mr. H. G. Barnard, I am enabled to give some more particulars. Mr. Barnard found these birds breeding in the mangroves at Cape York, and seldom saw them elsewhere. The nests were placed at any height from four to thirty feet above the water, and were generally found by the bird dashing off, as Mr. Barnard ploughed through the mud up to his knees at every step, harassed by millions of sand-flies. The small fragile nests each contained only one white egg. The following are the measurements of two taken: 1·29 × ·87 inch and 1·14 × ·83 inch.

5. Craspedophora alberti (Elliot). Prince Albert's Rifle-bird. (Fig. 1, p. 395.)

The eggs of this beautiful bird have been found this season at Cape York by Mr. H. G. Barnard, who has been collecting there for Dr. C. Ryan, Dr. Snowball, and myself; and I cannot do better than quote his own notes on the subject, which are exceedingly interesting:—

"I found the first eggs of this bird on October 23rd, 1896, near Somerset, Cape York. On that date two nests were taken each containing two fresh eggs. The first (which I forward for description) was built in a small palm, seven feet from the ground: it was very loosely put together; in fact, if one is not very careful in taking such a nest it would fall to pieces. As a rule the nests were placed in

very conspicuous spots, the birds selecting patches of scrub where the undergrowth is very thin, evidently with the intention of seeing an enemy approach, as I did not in a single instance flush the bird from its nest. These birds are very

Fig. 1.

Nest of *Craspedophora alberti*.

shy and hard to get a shot at. They do not seem particular as to the kind of tree they breed in, as I found them nesting in pandanus-trees and palms, in small trees that had had their tops broken off and a few shoots growing out, also against the stems of small trees where two or three vines met; in one

instance I found the nest on the top of a stump 18 inches from the ground. If a nest was found with one egg and the egg were taken, the bird always laid a second next day, but if the first egg was left it always disappeared."

At the first nest Mr. Barnard found he had to remain in hiding for over an hour before the bird returned, but owing to the weather being so warm there was no fear of the eggs getting cold during that time. The female of the Victoria Rifle-bird sits very closely to her nest, and the trunk of the tree on which she is nesting often has to be struck several times before she will fly off.

The nests and eggs of the three Australian Rifle-birds are now known, as Mr. A. J. Campbell described that of the *Ptilorhis paradisea* taken in the Clarence River district, before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria last month; and the egg of the *Ptilorhis victoriæ* was first found by Mr. H. G. Barnard and myself on the Barnard Islands in 1890, and was also described by the same gentleman. It seems strange that the natives of Cape York, where these birds are plentiful, should have told Macgillivray that they laid white eggs in hollows in trees; it is possible that the fact of the birds leaving their nest on the slightest alarm may account for it, but it is more likely still that they mistook the bird.

The nest is very loosely constructed of green twigs with the leaves on, large dead leaves, and vine-tendrils. Its external depth is 5 inches, internal $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; external diameter 9 inches, internal $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The eggs are beautifully marked, and are very similar to those of the other two Rifle-birds. There are two types, one having a much darker ground-colour than the other; both are slightly lustrous.

Type A.—The ground-colour is ochraceous buff, richly marked with stripes starting from the larger end close to the apex, where they coalesce, towards the smaller, and tapering off to a point. The markings are of various lengths and breadths, some being large and going three parts down the egg, and others again being only elongated dots. They vary in colour, but are principally various shades of rich

rufous brown; some lighter ones appear of a greyish-blue hue. They have the appearance of being painted on by hand, one often overlapping the other, and darker markings sometimes appear as if beneath the lighter ones. They measure: A, 1·31 × 1·04 inch; B, 1·24 × 1·03 inch.

Type B.—The ground-colour cream-buff, the elongated markings thinner than in the preceding and commencing further from the apex. Many of the markings are greyish blue at their larger end, darkening gradually towards their point to rufous brown. The smaller end of the egg generally has few markings on it, and those mostly small. They measure: A, 1·22 × ·88 inch; B, 1·28 × ·89 inch.

Rifle-birds' eggs are without exception the most beautiful and striking of all the Australian birds'-eggs.

6. Arses candidior, De Vis. White-breasted Flycatcher. (Fig. 2, p. 398.)

The nest and two eggs of this pretty Frill-necked Flycatcher were found at Somerset, Cape York, by Mr. H. G. Barnard on December 12th, 1896. He states that "it was found in the scrub, built between two thin vines, which hung down from the trees above, and was about thirty feet from the ground. When on the nest the birds seem very tame, almost letting one catch them before flying, though otherwise they are very shy."

Their beautiful open nest has the appearance of a hanging basket, and is fastened between two upright hanging vines by cobwebs. The interior is composed of fine dark-coloured rootlets, and the exterior of small light-coloured twigs, rather loosely put together, and ornamented on the outside with green lichen, the whole being lightly covered with cobweb. It is a very similar structure to that of *Arses kaupi*, which I described last year. It measures—external depth 3¼ inches, internal 1¾ inch; external diameter 2½ inches, internal 1½ inch. The eggs have a white ground-colour and are freckled all over, especially on the larger end, with small irregular reddish-brown markings, some on the apex appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell and of a pink colour. They measure: A, ·73 × ·52 inch; B, ·72 × ·53 inch.

7. Machærirhynchus flaviventer, Gould. Yellow-breasted Flycatcher. (Fig. 3, p. 399.)

Mr. H. G. Barnard also found the nest and two eggs of this interesting Flycatcher on the 14th of December, 1896.

Fig. 2.

Nest of *Arses candidior*.

It is locally called the "Boat-billed Flycatcher," an appropriate name. The nest was built in the fork of a thin projecting branch and was 14 feet from the ground. It is a shallow open structure, the interior being built entirely of

curly vine-tendrils, a springy but uneven surface for the delicate eggs. The exterior is composed of thin twigs, and the nest is fastened on to the branch with cobwebs; a little of the same material is used to help to keep the outer portion of the structure together. The twigs used are of the same kind as the Frill-necked Flycatcher uses for her nest. The

Fig. 3.

Nest of *Machærirhynchus flaviventer*.

external depth is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch, internal $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; external diameter $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, internal $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

The ground-colour of the eggs is pure white, with a few small rufous-brown markings of irregular shapes, they being much more plentiful at the larger end, where they form an irregular zone. They measure: A, ·69 × ·50 inch; B, ·68 × ·49 inch.